

First wagon train of the pioneer company to enter the Salt Lake Valley, July 22, 1847

Photo — courtesy Wheelwright Lithographing Co.



THE PIONEERS ENTERING SALT LAKE VALLEY

Photo — courtesy Utah Publicity Dept.

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GRANDMOTHER'S COOKSTOVE

Grandmother's cookstove stood in the corner.
Beside it the woodbox was piled with pine knots.

The long kitchen window looked over the meadows,
Where Grandmother stood, scrubbing worn copper pots.

The handmade pine table that stood by the window
Was washed till it shone like the clean kitchen floor.

Coniums bloomed on a shelf, and the fragrance
Of spices and fresh bread seeped under the door.

Grandmother's cookstove was trimmed with bright nickel.
She painted the lids, and she brushed it at night.

With a wide turkey wing that she kept for that purpose.
On the table nearby burned a kerosene light.

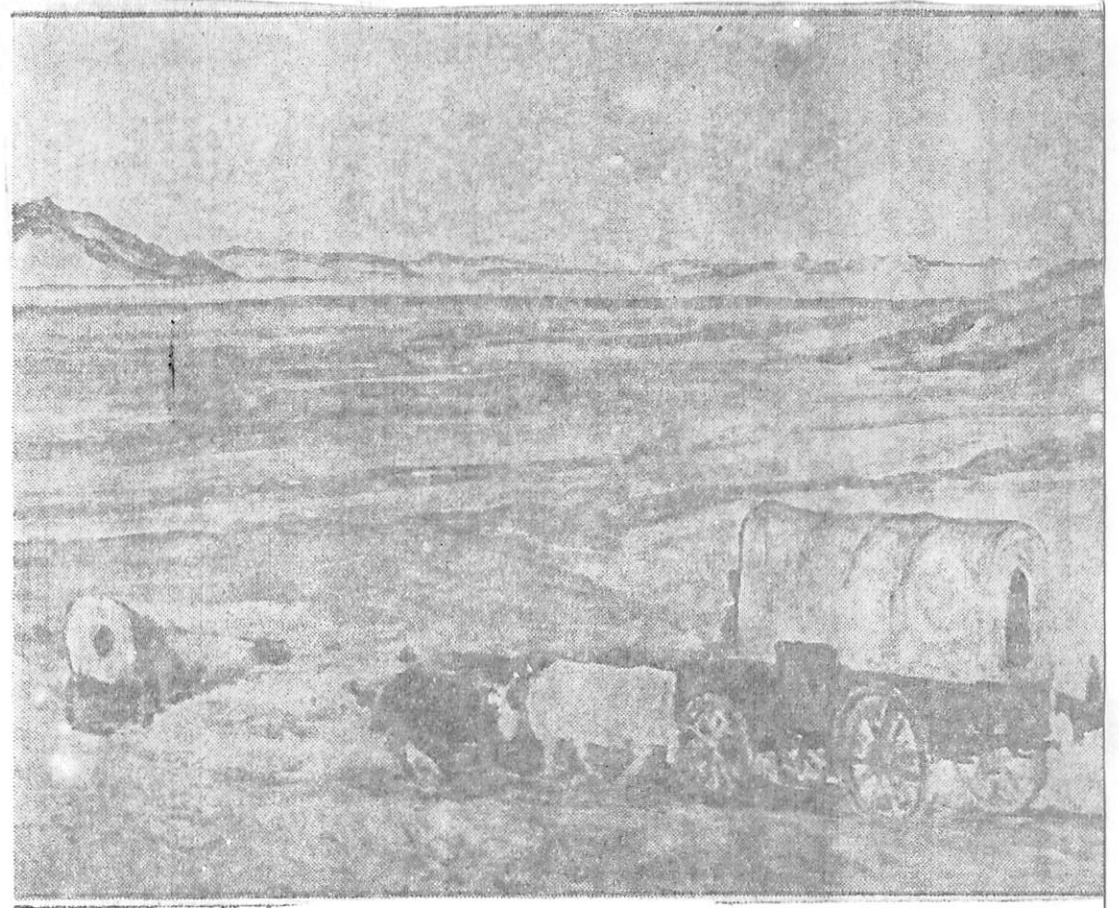
But cookies she baked there! What good buckwheat pancakes!

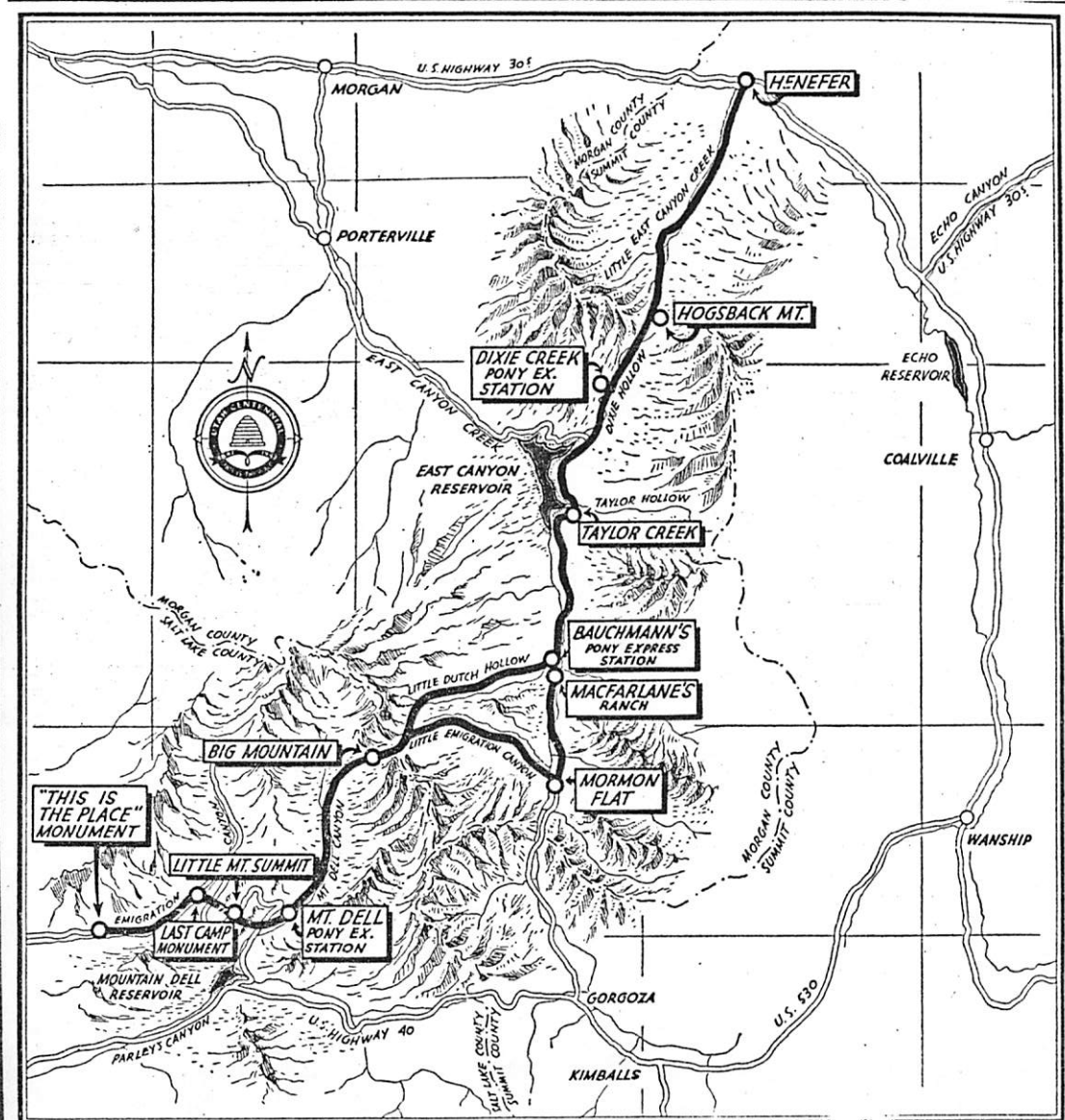
What gingerbread men for the children who came

Secure in the knowledge that Grandmother's cookstove,

Like Grandmother's heart, held a warm steady flame!

—ANNE CAMPBELL

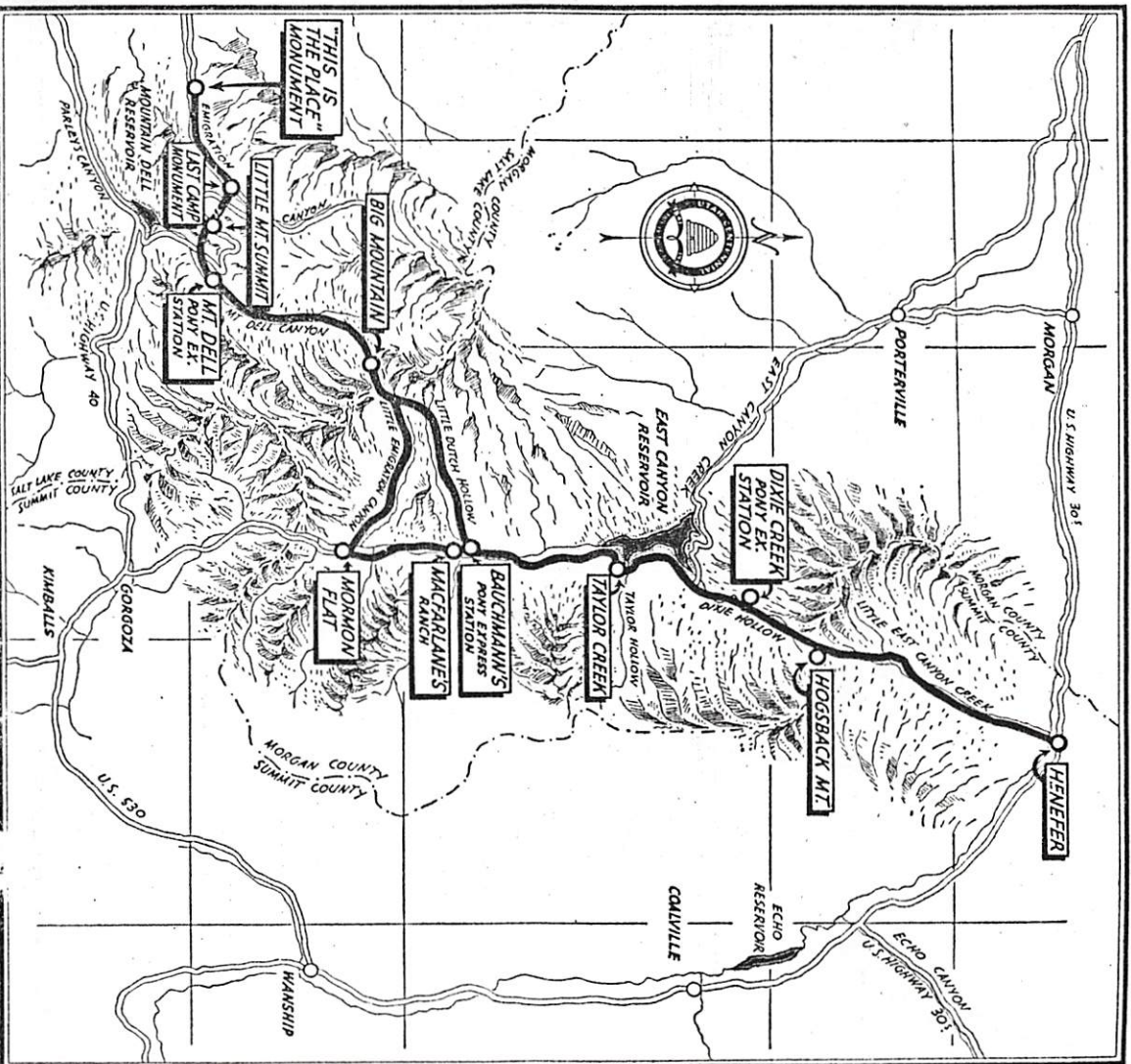




DEPICTS HISTORIC TRAIL'S LAST 36 MILES

Connecting highways, canyons and mountains in and around the This Is the Place state park, comprising the last 36 miles of the Old Mormon Trail are shown in this relief map of the entire area.

Andrew Jensen
1935



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First in the West:

EARLY EXPLORERS PAVED WAY TO UTAH

People throughout the world watch, wait and listen to the radio as a converted bomber owner by a man named Reynolds, circles the globe in an effort to establish a world record. Then the final hours and the plane lands, the record is broken and another event becomes history.

But, there were many years of struggle and much to be learned before such an event could take place. So it was with the settlement of the West. The pioneers came to Salt Lake Valley, July 24, 1847, but there was much done in this area prior to that time.

Surveyed Area

We have already mentioned that John C. Fremont was the first man to survey the Great Salt Lake for the U. S. government. He also surveyed hundreds of square miles of the surrounding territory, but there were others whose knowledge of the Rocky Mountains painted a colorful picture of a rocky wilderness. As early as 1539 the Catholic

missionaries began their work among the Indians of the southwest. Such devout men as Fray Marcos who explored and did missionary work in New Mexico and Arizona even before the coming of the Pilgrims, have left much as a heritage for those who followed their trails.

Then there were two other Spanish missionaries, Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Fray Silvestre Velez de Escalante in 1776. In seeking a route from Santa Fe, N. M., to Monterey in southern Calif., they traversed Utah from Vernal and the Green River a little below the Dinosaur Quarry to Utah Lake and the valley of the Virgin River. They never recorded seeing Great Salt Lake, but referred to it several times in the journal of their travels.

De Smet Meets Pioneers

Father Pierre Jean De Smet, a Catholic priest, met the pioneers on their westward trip. He was able to give Brigham Young much valuable information, having traveled much in the West.

Some claims have been made that Cardenas came north into Utah in 1540, but more claims are to the contrary, though he did much traveling through New Mexico and Colorado.

Trappers in Area

Other names that will be remembered because of the diligent work of their bearers in the West are William Ashley and Maj. Andrew Henry, organizers of the Rocky Mountain Fur Co. Their companions, Jedediah S. Smith, William and Milton Sublette, David E. Jackson, Robert Campbell, Etienne Provot and Thomas Fitzpatrick were bold men who braved many dangers in order to learn more about the wilderness and to establish Ashley's Fort and the city of Provo.

Then there were other trappers and traders, Jim Bridger, Benjamin Bonneville, Kit Carson, John Colter and the Lewis and Clark expedition members. Their work was for the government, but their course was their own.

First Settlers

In Ogden, Miles Goodyear settled in the Wasatch Mountains under a permit from the Mexican government. He was a member of the Marcus Whitman group in his younger days. Then we can't forget Langsford Hastings and the George Donner-James Reed company of pioneers. There are many whose little has contributed much to millions.

To the Spanish goes the credit for being the first outsiders to travel among the Indians of the Utah area, but the first men to learn of the Rocky Mountains will be listed with such names as Fremont, Ashley, De Smet, Bridger, Osborne Russell, Jim Barker, Bonneville, Nathaniel J. Wyeth, Goodyear and others.

Pioneers

Pioneers

How It Started

Special Series Telling the Origin of Each Community In the State

THE DESERT NE

In order to give an accurate account of the details surrounding the arrival of the pioneers in the valley, and their first acts after arrival, a day by day account of these events will now be given.

Wednesday, July 21.—Orson Pratt's advance company resuming their journey, traveled two and a half miles and ascended a mountain (Little Mountain) one and a half miles; then descended upon the west side one mile and came upon a swift running creek which they called Last Creek now Emigration Creek, and halted for noon.

Erastus Snow, traveling with the main company, proceeded in advance of his company (the main company) down Last Creek, to Pratt's camp, where he joined the company with Orson Pratt and the two men then leaving the Pratt camp ascended a hill at the mouth of the canyon from the top of which a broad valley opened to their view. They judged it to be 20 miles wide and 30 miles long, and at the north end of it the broad waters of the Great Salt Lake glistened from the mountains.

After issuing from the mountains, among which they had been shut up for many days, and beholding in a moment such extensive scenery, opening before them, they could not refrain from a shout of joy. They immediately descended gradually into the lower parts of the valley, and although they had but one horse between them, they made a circuit of about twelve miles before they left the valley to return to the Pratt camp, which they found 1½ miles up the canyon, and about 3 miles in advance of their noon halt. The two pioneers arrived in the camp at nine o'clock in the evening.

The main body of the pioneers, camped that night about 1½ miles up Emigration Creek from the Pratt camp. This main part of the pioneer company had left their camp at 6:30 o'clock a.m. and crossed what was afterwards known as Big Mountain. After traveling four and one half miles from the top of said mountain they came to a good spring of cold water (now known as Birch Springs), where there was plenty of grass and a good place to camp.

The teams of the company had been in the harness about ten hours without eating, and some of the brethren desired to camp by the spring, while others wished to go further, and so, the journey

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BY ANDREW JENSON, (Assistant Church Historian.)

Celebrations may come and celebrations may go, but the most fervent celebration of the arrival of the pioneers in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, was that held by the pioneers themselves on the very day of arrival.

It was one of the happiest days in the history of the Church, when the weary emigrants shouted "Whooa," and their travel-worn oxen halted their heavy burdens at the journey's end.

On this fateful day—July 23, 1847—while President Brigham Young, the leader of the company, was yet on one day's journey from the valley, having been delayed by illness, the happy travelers gathered together on what are now the City and County building grounds, and expressed their thanks to a merciful Providence, who had enabled them safely here.

It was a day of unmeasured gratitude, as expressed by the poet:

"Ah! marvel nothing if the eye may trace,
The care lines on each toll-worn hero's face,
Nor yet, if down their cheeks in silent show,
The trickling tides of tender feelings flow;
Could even the stoutest heart forbear to say
The grateful heart to weep
Good cause had gratitude to weep that day
Or censure for a flow of manly tears.
That brave souled band—immortal Pioneers."

As they assembled on that sun-scorched camp ground that historic day, with the temperature at 96 degrees, a prayer of thanksgiving on behalf of the entire company was offered by Elder Orson Pratt. Expressing appreciation during the journey from the Missouri river, he prayed that their efforts at colonization here would be prospered from on high. Then he dedicated the camp and the entire land to God.

The following day—July 24—when President Young and those who had remained with him, entered the valley. As they reached the mouth of the canyon they were met by Elders John Pack and Joseph Matthews from the advance camps, who reported that the entire valley had been explored and that a place in which to begin farming had been chosen.

In writing of his entrance to the valley with President Young, Willford Woodruff says:

"This is one of the most important days of my life, and in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After traveling six miles through a deep ravine ending with the valley of the Great Salt Lake; the land of promise, held in reserve by God, as a resting place for his Saints.

"We gazed in wonder and admiration upon the vast valley before us, with the waters of the Great Salt Lake glistening in the sun, mountains towering to the skies, and streams of pure water running through the beautiful valleys. It was the grandest scene that we had ever beheld till this moment. Pleasant thoughts ran in not many years hence, the house of God would be established in the mountains and exalted above the hills; while the valleys would be converted into orchards, vineyards and fruitful fields, cities erected to the name of the Lord, and the standard of Zion unfurled for the gathering of nations.

"President Young expressed his entire satisfaction at the appearance of the valley as a resting place for the Saints, and felt amply repaid for his journey. While lying upon his bed in my carriage, gazing upon the scene before us, many things of the future concerning the valley were shown to him in a vision.

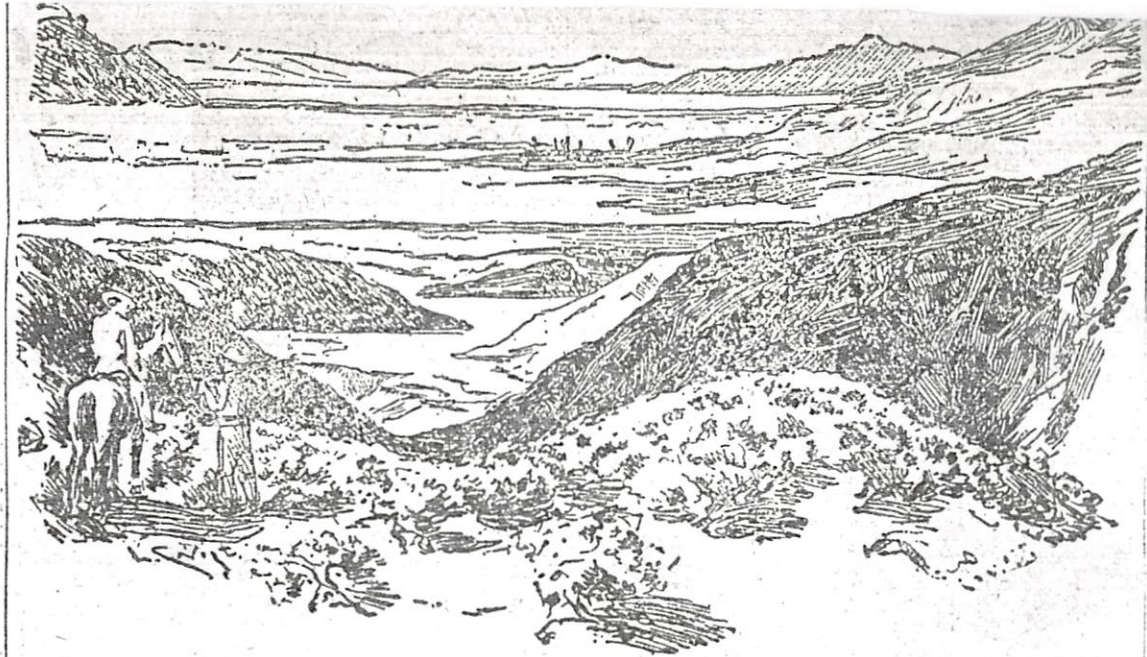
"After gazing awhile upon this scenery, we moved four miles across the table land into the valley, to the encampment of our brethren who had arrived two days before."

It is not generally known, or at least not usually accepted as a fact, that the main party of the pioneers camped on Mill Creek the first night after their arrival in the valley July 22, but by examining the valley July 22, which enters the valley several miles

*What the Pioneers saw as they
Arrived in the Salt Lake Valley*



They wedded in the wilderness ~
The Lily and the Bee;
And men maintain 'twas then God gave
This Land to Industry.



As the Salt Lake valley appeared in 1847. (From H. L. A. Culmer's drawing, taken from the spot where the pioneers emerged from Emigration canyon.)



The old Tabernacle was built on Salt Lake City's Temple Square in 1852. On the afternoon of March 18, 1855, Orson spoke in the old Tabernacle and reviewed the story of Joseph sold into Egypt. Note the willow and brush-covered bowery to the right of the Tabernacle. This was used for overflow crowds. (Courtesy of Church archives)



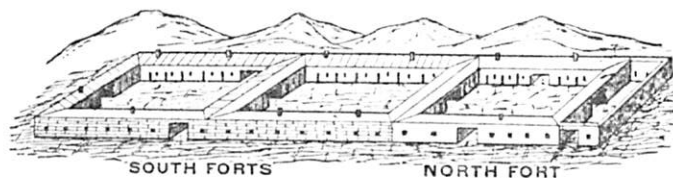
Salt Lake Valley — On September 21, 1852, the Orson Hyde family and pioneer company entered the valley. (Courtesy of LaMar C. Berrett)



Pioneers Entering Salt Lake Valley, 1847

with earth. They slanted inward, and the doors and windows faced the interior. Each house had a small loop-hole looking out. In most of them the bare ground served as a floor. Heavy gates, carefully locked at night, guarded the main entrance to the fort.

Two additional blocks, or parts of blocks, on the south, were enclosed in like manner, and joined on to the original stockade. This extension was built by the immigrants who followed the Pioneers from Winter Quarters, and began to arrive in Salt Lake Valley



THE OLD FORT.

during the latter part of September. There were four large companies of them, numbering in the aggregate fifteen hundred souls. Several pieces of artillery were brought in this immigration.

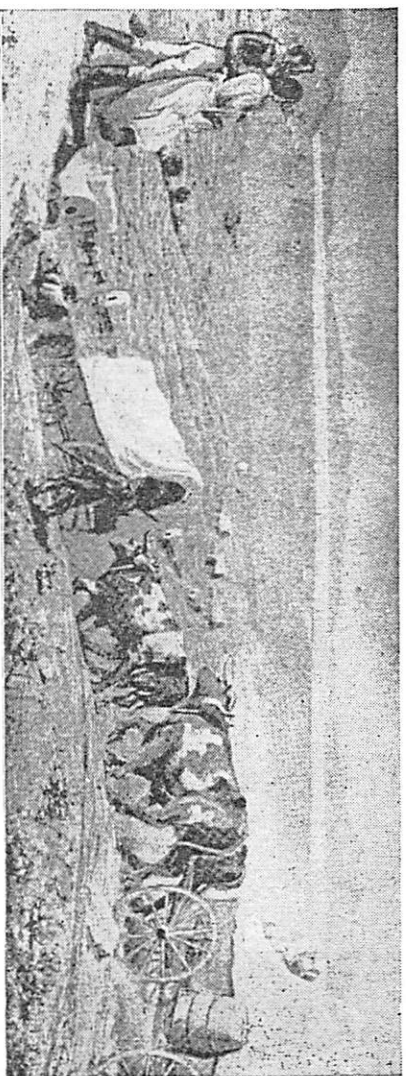
Life in the "Old Fort" had many discomforts. The fore part of the first winter was mild and open, but as the season advanced heavy snows fell, melted, and soaked through the dirt and willow roofs upon the heads of the miserable inmates. Swarms of vermin—mice and bugs—infested the fort. The bugs came in the green timber from the mountains. The mice were also native, though some may have been

brought in the grain wagons of the immigrants. Large white wolves howled around the stockade and attacked the cattle on the range. And yet, in spite of these annoyances, more than one happy gathering, more than one joyful celebration, was held within those rude walls. Two little schools were taught there.*

The first house outside the fort was a log cabin built by Lorenzo D. Young, in the autumn of 1847. It stood where the Bee-Hive House now stands.



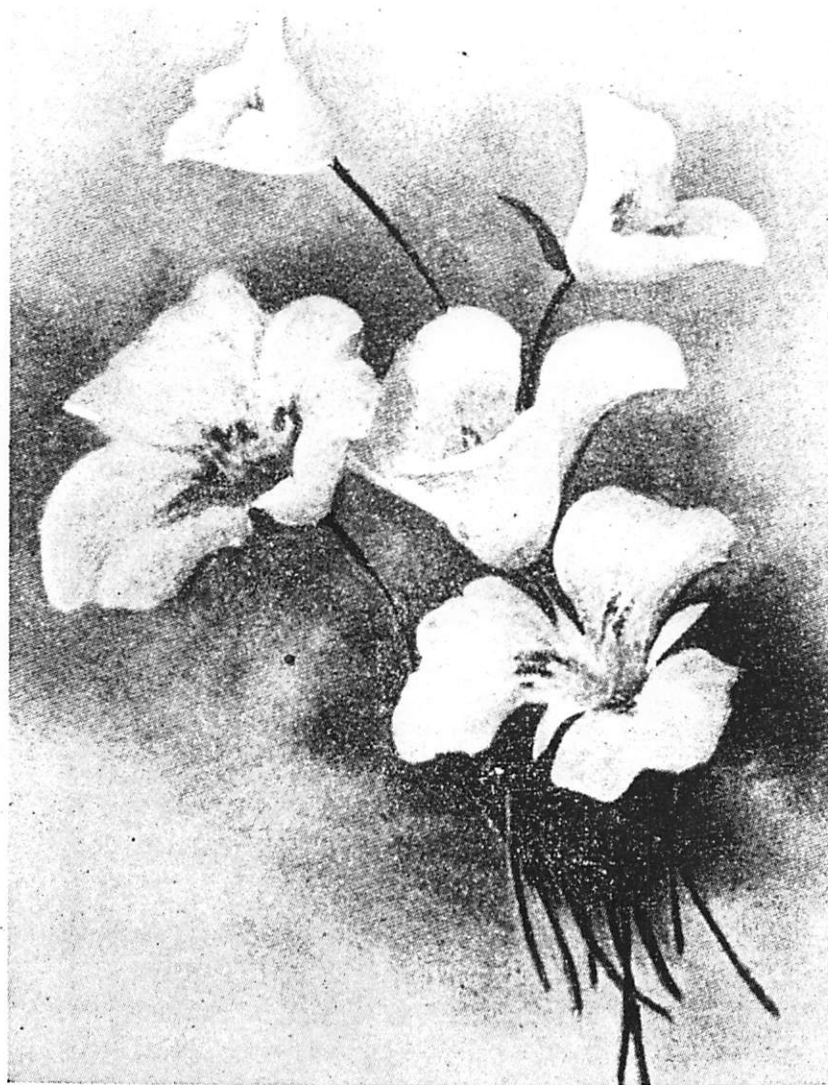
AN EARLY SETTLER'S CABIN.



THE PIONEERS ENTERING THE SALT LAKE VALLEY, JULY 24, 1847
BY J. B. FAIRBANKS

erals to the war. They were Richard W. Young, Frank T. Hines, William E. Cole, and Briant H. Wells.

Recently Utah sent thousands of her young men and millions of dollars, as well as many nurses, to contribute her share to the Second World War. No better soldiers can be found than the youth of our State. They are healthy, alert, keen, and vigorous, and love democracy and their country.



THE SEGO LILY, UTAH'S STATE FLOWER

UTAH STATE GOVERNMENT

Utah's government, patterned after that of the United States, is divided into three departments, namely legislative, executive, and judicial.